

GOLD RIBBON FOR HISTORY

Awarded To: Augie Callerame, Rochester Chapter Historian
Kenneth Champagne, Niagara Frontier Chapter Historian

HISTORY OF AN EVENT

History was made last night in Buffalo, New York. The date was Monday October 28, 1996, and on that date the very first ever joint meeting was held between the Niagara Frontier Chapter and the Rochester Chapter ASHRAE.

The meeting was preceded by a tour through the brand new Marine Midland Sports Arena, the home of the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team. We were guided through the entire facility and observed some of the latest developments in total coordinated building management, which included heating, air conditioning, ventilation, security, fire control etc. The Arena is truly and awesome building and very inspiring and worth while to see.

History was made a second time last night by the Niagara Frontier Chapter, they celebrated their highest attendance count ever for a regular monthly meeting. One hundred seventy three (173) ASHRAE members and guests sat down to a very delicious dinner at the Harbor Club Restaurant, which is part of the arena complex.

Mr. John McCline of the Buffalo Forge Co. spoke to the group about the history of the Cobblestone District of Buffalo, an area that came to be as a direct result of the influence of the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal was dedicated in 1825 and thereby opened up the West to settlers. A tremendous amount of traffic developed between the western terminus of the canal and the Buffalo Harbor on Lake Erie. This area of course is the Historic Site that Mr. McCline described to us as the Cobblestone District. One of the major items to be shipped was grain and it had to be transferred by hand from the canal barges into large barrels and then carried on to larger lake going vessels for shipment. It wasn't long before grain elevators driven by steam engines were developed. As a direct result of all of this traffic and commerce, the need for "power" became very paramount. Boiler manufacturing plants began to appear rather rapidly, at one time according to Mr. Cline there were at least fourteen to sixteen different factories producing boilers. The need for steam boilers extended not only for local use in Buffalo but also to equip lake going vessels and to power the recently

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discovered oil fields in Pennsylvania. The Buffalo Forge Company started in 1878 as a small blacksmith shop and it has survived and grown into a major manufacture of air handling equipment.

I found Mr. McClines talk to be extremely interesting and I couldn't help but compare the "Canal" influence to the City of Buffalo to the "Canal" influence to my own City of Rochester, because Rochester was known on time in its early existence as the "Flour City" and that some of our flour did end up going through Buffalo's Cobblestone District and thence on to Lake Erie for shipment to other ports.

The main speaker of the evening gave a slide presentation of the Andover Control System that we had observed on our tour of the facility. Of particular interest was the twenty minute evacuation time allowed in care of fire.

I met Mr. Kenneth E. Champagne, Past President and present Frontier Chapters Historian after the program, and we talked about both our chapters and their beginnings. I extended a very heartfelt "thank you" from the Rochester Chapter for having invited us and he in return welcomed us to "do it again" anytime.

Augie Callerame

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ASHRAE

